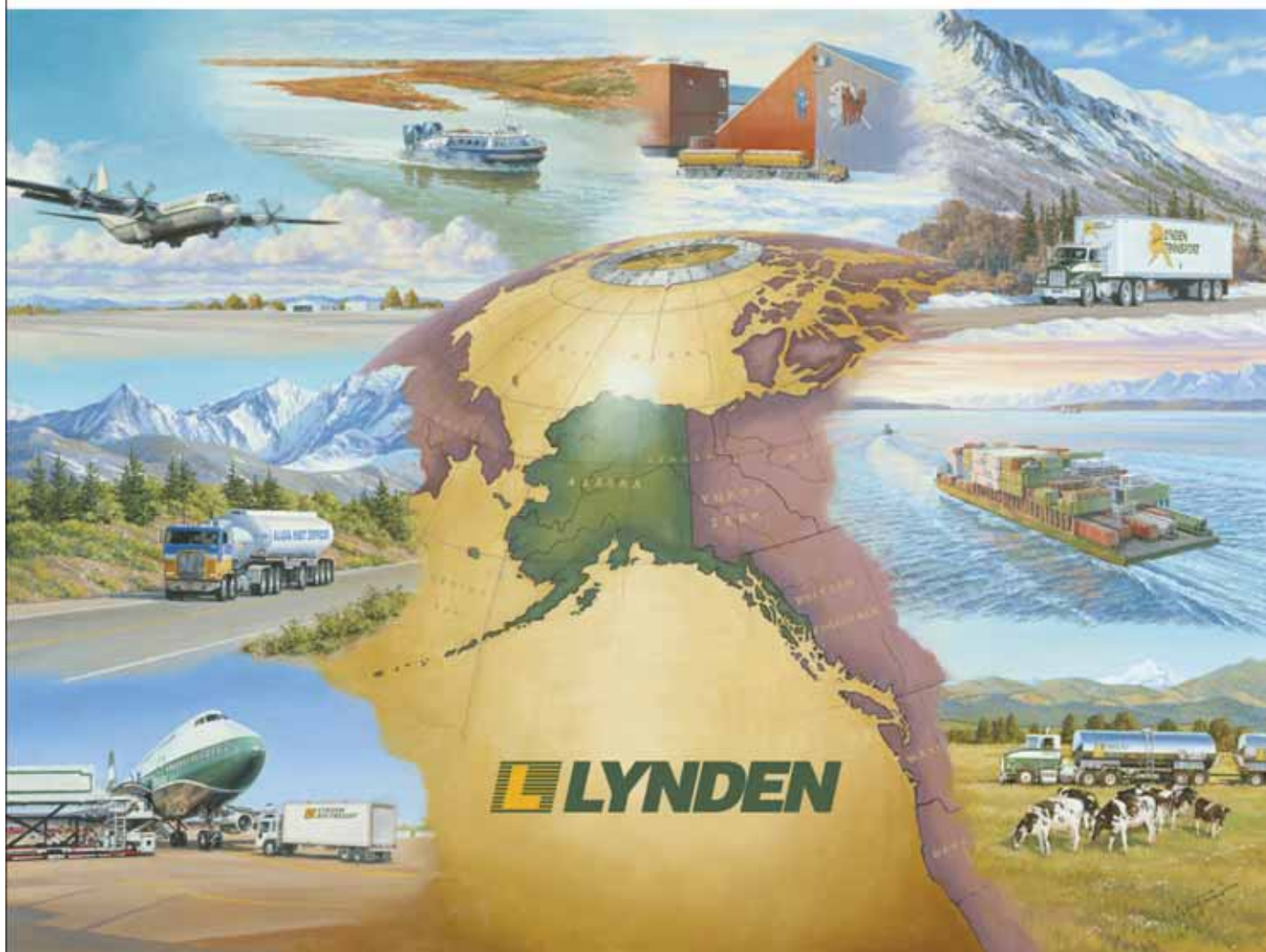


Annual Report

For the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



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Defending the
Homeland – an Alaska
Army National Guard Blackhawk.

Photo by Mark Farmer

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Leadership: Equal Parts Readiness and Ability to Transform. In every facet, in every way, DMVA employees and military members broke new ground in 2004. In the center, Major General Craig Campbell, Adjutant General and Commissioner; from left to right, Captain Michele Stickney, commander of the Alaska Naval Militia; Mr. Jerry Beale, Director of Alaska Veterans Affairs; Mr. Dave Liebersbach, Director of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management; Brigadier General Craig Christensen, Assistant Adjutant General–Army, and commander of the Alaska Army National Guard; Major General Campbell; DMVA Deputy Commissioner Roger Schnell; Brigadier General Tim Scott, Assistant Adjutant General–Air, and commander of the Alaska Air National Guard; Mr. John Cramer, Director of the Division of Administration; Mr. Tim Jones, Director of the Alaska Military Youth Academy; and Mr. Jack Phelps, Program Manager for Statewide Emergency Communications. Brigadier General Tom Westall, commander of the Alaska State Defense Force and Colonel Tom Katkus, Assistant Adjutant General for Space & Missile Defense, and Director of the Alaska Counter-Drug Program, were away on assignments and unavailable for this photo. Photo: Specialist Laura Griffin, 117th MPAD

The DMVA Annual Report is a special project of Warriors Magazine. It is published, as required by state statute, to explain the annual missions and activities of the employees and military members of the Department of Defense, Alaska National Guard, and State of Alaska that are assigned within the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.

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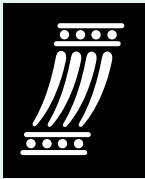
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Ready to Serve

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Moving Forward

Governor Frank H. Murkowski
Commander in Chief



Saluting Service, Sacrifice and Traditions. Governor Frank H. Murkowski, commander-in-chief of the Alaska National Guard, speaks before more than 400 soldiers, airmen and civilian employees during a special recognition of the National Guard's 368th Birthday, December 13th. Brigadier General Craig Christensen, Deputy Adjutant General, left, hosted the event at the Camp Denali Armory. Photo: Staff Sergeant Ken Denny, 117th MPAD

As we began 2004, I had ordered employees of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, members of the Alaska National Guard and the Alaska State Defense Force, the Alaska State Troopers, and others to Valdez and positions along our trans-Alaska oil pipeline to protect against threats made by enemies of our country. More than 150 law enforcement officers, Guardmembers and soldiers of the State Defense Force, and homeland security and emergency management team members made a determined show of force over the holidays and early into the year. Their efforts worked.

Employees and military members of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs made an extraordinary commitment in these extraordinary times. They were selfless and committed in their acts to protect several of our key infrastructures. This example is but one of many, many acts that these men and women perform daily.

DMVA exemplifies service, sacrifice and tradition. It was my honor and privilege to take part in several special events with the DMVA in 2004. Early

this past January we activated the new Alaska National Guard Space & Missile Defense Battalion at Ft. Greely. I was proud to be a part of reclaiming the life of an old military post, on behalf of our entire nation, and standing up a brand new military unit – in the Guard – to operate this critically important missile defense system.

We were a part of taking up arms to defend Alaska, our nation and our Canadian friends. We were restoring the economy of the Delta Junction region, and bringing a new science and technology to our University of Alaska system – a worthy effort on so many fronts.

Our Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management was also engaged in responding to several disasters – the worst fire season in the modern history of Alaska with more than 4.3 million acres burned and response to and recovery from a series of fall sea storms in Northwest Alaska.

We struck a new partnership with Mongolia. Through this new friendship we're sharing techniques, traditions and methods that we each use in emergency management, military affairs

and government relations. What an exciting journey.

It has also been my solemn assignment and duty to both send off troops to support the War on Terrorism and to welcome them home again. Nancy and I have treasured the moments we've spent with members of our National Guard and their families. What courage, devotion, faith and love they exhibit. We are so proud of those who've served in Kosovo, and the others who have served or are serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Korea, the Philippines or elsewhere. We are also very proud of those employees and military members who continue to serve here at home – defending our homeland.

As you look through this 2004 Annual Report of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs you'll see the impact of your fellow Alaskans – devoted, determined and ready to serve. I commend this report to you.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor



My Turn

Major General Craig E. Campbell

Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard & Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

A Year of Achievement & Transformation



Honoring a True Friendship. Major General Craig Campbell greets members of the Mongolian military during a tour of various military bases around Ulaanbaatar Mongolia. Alaska shares many commonalities with Mongolia through the state's partnership program that has resulted in unique training opportunities for the Alaska National Guard and Mongolian army and border guards. Photo: Staff Sergeant Ken Denny, 117th MPAD

What a pleasure it is to introduce you to the 2004 DMVA Annual Report. What we achieved during this past year has been truly remarkable and we've achieved it together. We've met each of the challenges that have come our way with courage, determination and resolve.

We've saluted our heroes and waved goodbye to our soldiers and airmen headed out to fight America's enemies in the War on Terrorism. We've defended our homeland – deploying members of our own Homeland Security & Emergency Management Team, State Defense Force and Alaska National Guard soldiers and airmen within Alaska's borders to detect, deter or defend our neighbors and our resources.

We ventured into new mission areas with activation of the missile defense program at Fort Greely, initiating transfer of the space warning surveillance operation at Clear AFS from the Air Force, and completing transfer of the Alaska

Regional Air Operations Center to the Alaska National Guard. Of significance to 2004, we obtained the first military discharge certificates for members of our Alaska Territorial Guard, who after nearly 60 years have received the recognition they deserved for serving this great state and nation during and immediately following World War II.

When we were needed we offered a helping hand. Then we gave more. Our search and rescue crews saved or assisted more than 150 Alaskans and visitors. We helped our neighbors in Northwest Alaska recover from a series of severe fall storms. Our Alaska Military Youth Academy received national recognition for exceptional standards, and we reached the highest enrollment level in the history of the program. And we extended our relationships globally through the establishment of a State Partnership Program initiative with Mongolia.

Through all of this we were deeply

involved in transforming our entire Department of Military & Veterans Affairs – from top to bottom. We examined our vision of what we believed we should be doing, where we should be going, our missions, our resources, the needs of Alaska and the requirements of our nation. We discovered new ideas, new energy and vitality and renewed determination to succeed.

I want you to know how deeply I respect each of the members of the DMVA – whether civilian employee, service member, or veteran – we have a fantastic team. I commend this report to you as a reflection of one of the most dynamic years this department has ever experienced, the result of the dedicated work of these fine professionals.

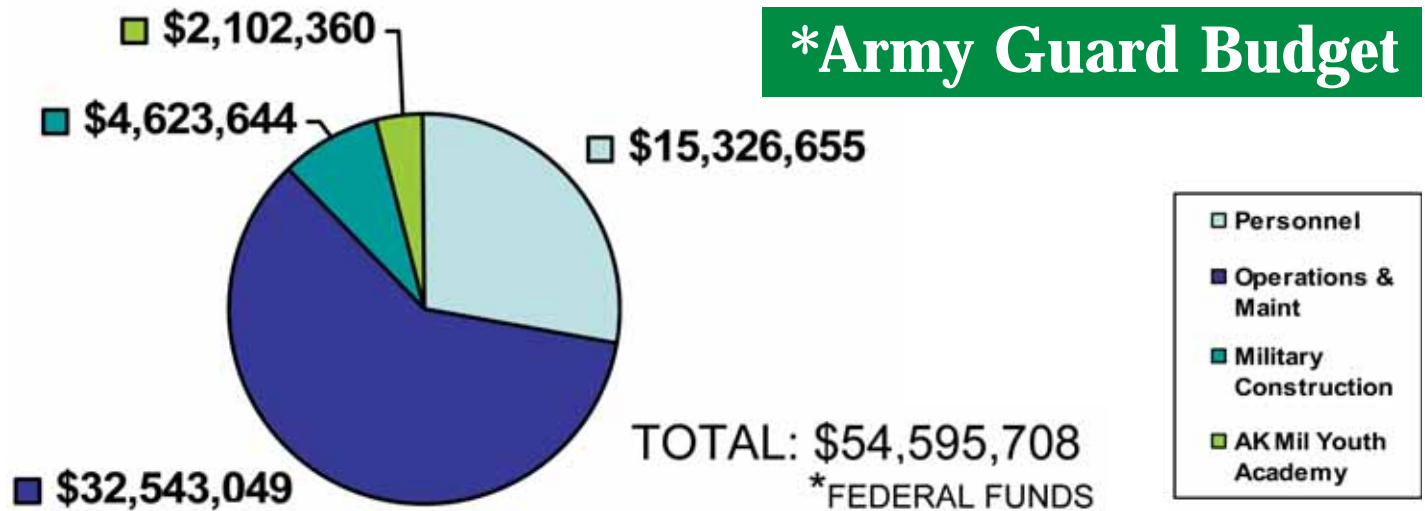
Very respectfully,

Major General Craig E. Campbell

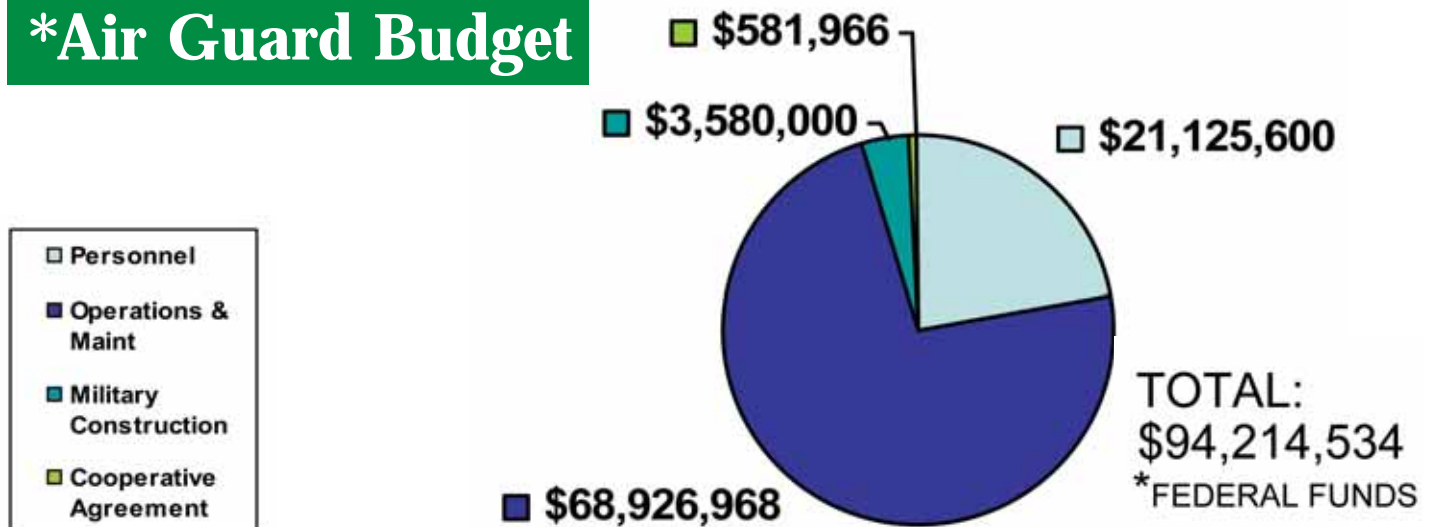
DMVA... By the Numbers

State Funding Important to Federal Support of Alaska National Guard

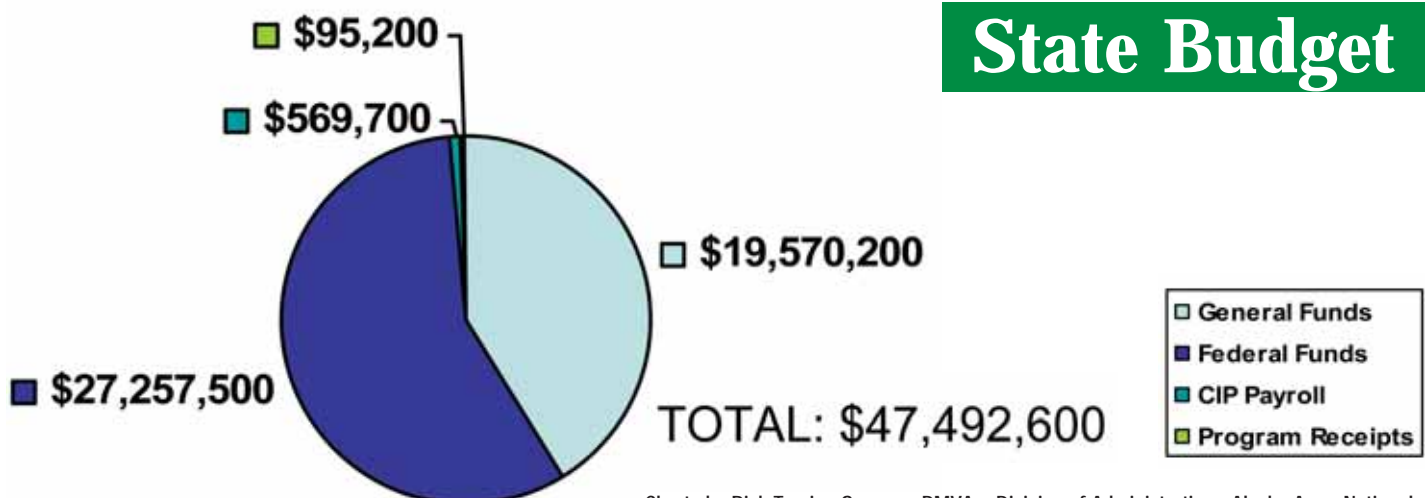
*Army Guard Budget



*Air Guard Budget

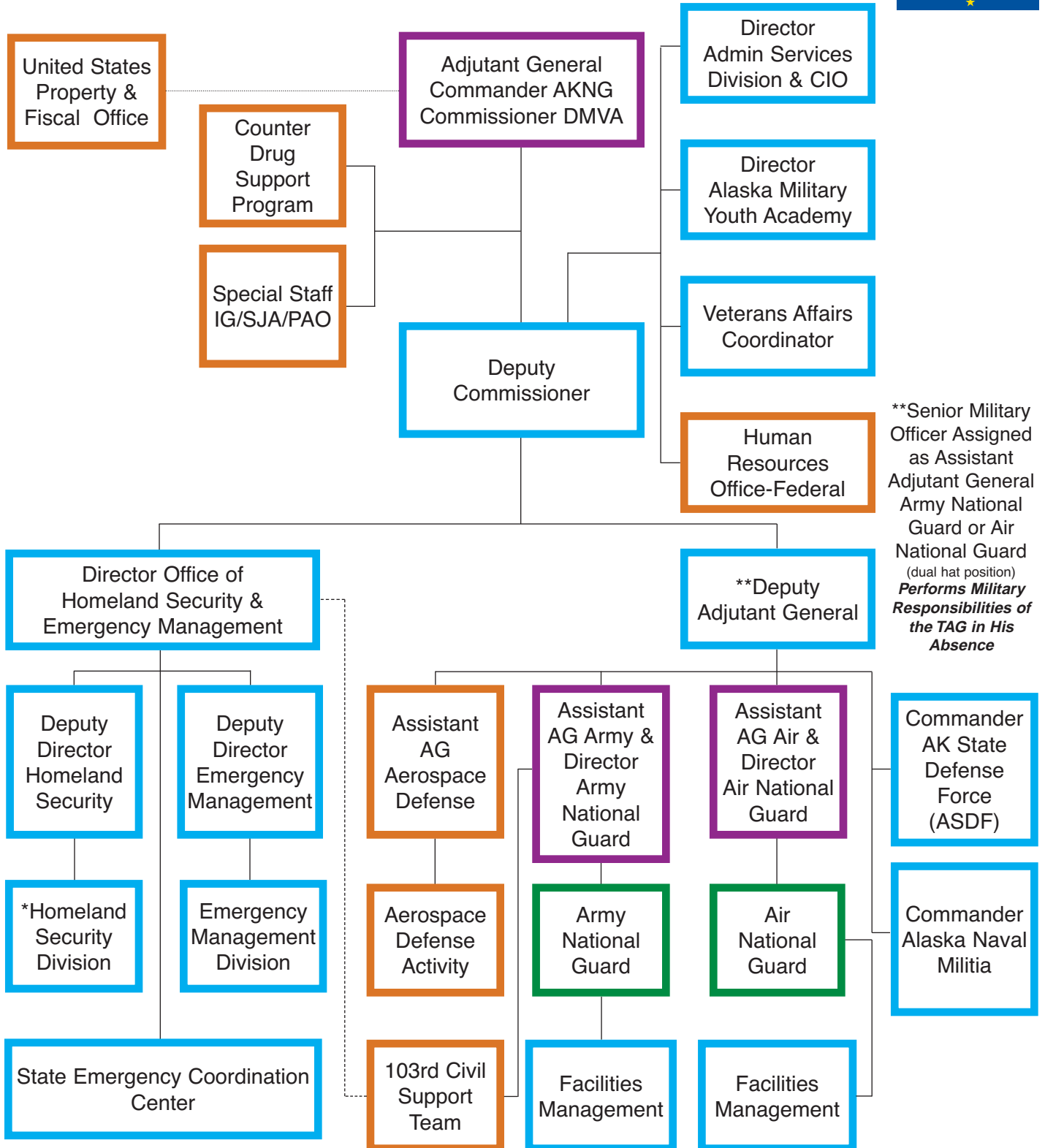


State Budget



Charts by Rick Turcic. Sources: DMVA – Division of Administration, Alaska Army National Guard, Alaska Air National Guard.

Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



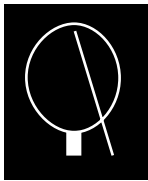
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State

Federal

Combination State & Federal
Depending on status:
Normally State during M-F work week. Paid
Federally when in military status, unless
called to State Active Duty

Federally paid but
may be called to
State Active Duty



Dispatches from the Front...

Guard Infantry Unit Called To Active Duty

About 130 Alaskans Affected; First Call-up of Infantry Since World War II

JUNEAU... A company of Army National Guard troops has been mobilized by Governor Frank H. Murkowski as part of an involuntary call-up of Guard units from several states to the Global War on Terrorism.

About 130 soldiers of Alpha Company, Third Battalion (Scout), 297th Infantry of the 207th Infantry Group (Scout), headquartered in Juneau, were activated for up to 18 months. This is the first federal call-up of an Alaska National Guard infantry unit since World War II.

"We're extremely proud of their selfless service in our communities, throughout our state, and now to America, in this time of need," Murkowski said.

"These are our families, our neighbors, our friends. They go forward with our thoughts and prayers and with the knowledge that Alaskans across our state await their safe return," said the governor.

The battalion has elements located throughout Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. The Alaskans are assigned to blend with units from Hawaii that are bound for Iraq. ■

Students Create Mars Base Prototype

Guard and NASA Promote Science in "Teaching from Space" Program



STARBASE Success for Mission.
Photo: Staff Sergeant Ken Denny, 117th MPAD

CAMP DENALI... Students from Mount Spurr and Ursa Major Elementary schools, in Anchorage and Ft. Richardson, took part in an absolutely out-of-this-world learning experience, working directly with NASA, thanks to the resources of the Alaska National Guard.

"As part of the National Guard's STARBASE program, two Alaska fifth- and sixth-grade classes video-linked with students from West Virginia, Virginia and Texas in space engineering design teams," said Kalei Brooks, public information officer for the Alaska National Guard.

They created a three-dimensional model for a Mars Surface Living Habitat that could safely house and protect a human crew from the Martian elements. After the exercise, students presented their conclusions to a panel of NASA educational facilitators via a video-conferencing link that is made possible through the National Guard's Distributive Training Technology Project.

The STARBASE program is designed for students ages 6 through 18 to enhance their math and science skills. The course principally exposes at-risk children and their teachers to real world applications of math and science through experiential learning, simulations and experiments in aviation and space related fields. ■



Saved Elders from Severe Storm. Staff Sergeant Sean Octuck and Master Sergeant Kevin Knowlton rescued elders at Solomon. Photo: Alaska Army National Guard

Guard Rescues Elders

NOME... Two Alaska National Guard Soldiers and two rescuers from the Nome Fire Department braved bitter cold to rescue two elders from the village of Solomon. The brothers, Franklin Okitkum, 76, and Garfield Okitkum 81, ran short of firewood and food when they realized they were in trouble in minus 120 temperatures. Aircraft was unable to respond due to weather, so Guard members Master Sgt. Kevin Knowlton, and Staff Sgt. Sean Octuck, and two members from the Nome Fire Department volunteered to drive two Small Unit Support Vehicles to the village of Solomon to help the brothers. Garfield Okitkum suffered from frostbite injuries to his face. Both Guard members were awarded Battalion Commander's coins for their efforts. ■

Guard Activated

FORT GREELY... Approximately 40 Alaska Army National Guard soldiers were called to Federal Active Duty to add another layer of security to the ground missile defense facilities at Fort Greely.

"They will be in direct support of the Guard's Missile Defense and Space Battalion operations at Fort Greely," said Major Mike Haller, public affairs officer with the Guard. The soldiers are from Fairbanks B Company 1st Scout Battalion, 207th Infantry Group.

They will augment the Guard's Military Police Company already at Fort Greely. They are from Fairbanks, Nome, Barrow and other Interior and Western Alaskan communities. ■



Extended Enlistment. B Company soldiers extend enlistment prior to activation.
Photo: Specialist Michael Coleman, 117th MPAD

Joint Forces

Alaska's Progress

Ready to Serve



Ready to Serve. Though Camp Denali is the hub of operations for the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, the real impact of what nearly 5,000 civilian employees, military members, and volunteers do for Alaska is felt across the state. Photo: Mark Farmer

DMVA's professional portfolios include homeland security and emergency management, search and rescue, defense of critical infrastructure, missile defense, military airlift, aerial refueling, space surveillance, critical communications, and education and training. The primary key to success in any of these endeavors is ensuring that our team is relevant and ready.

The emergence of the Joint Forces Headquarters is allowing for a positive blending of resources among both the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard across America. In Alaska, the Joint Forces Headquarters, or JFHQ, brings together what was previously known as the Army Guard's State Area Command (STARC) and the Air Guard Headquarters.

Military support to civil authority remains one of the JFHQ's preeminent responsibilities. In other words, we remain ready to help our neighbors in their time of need – using the appropriate resources of people, machines and material. The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is at the forefront of working with Alaska's people – through local governments, tribal organizations and entities – providing preparation and training for disasters and emergencies.

This Department is at the forefront of change. DMVA employees are on the leading edge of new and emerging technologies. We are taking the lead, on behalf of the State, in proving out the value and worth of new communications gear and new methods of communicating. All of this effort is coordinated with other departments across State government as well as the federal Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security.

Alaska is a change leader, advancing defense, communications, emergency management, missile defense, aviation and related safety issues.

Coupled with our long standing commitment to veterans and advocacy for their families, the DMVA is forging ahead with plans for a State Veterans Home and continuing the recognition efforts for the Alaska Territorial Guard.

The JFHQ is the catalyst for leadership and resource success – not just for the Guard, but for Alaska. ■



Joint Forces. Key to successful planning, training, operations. Major General Craig Campbell, center, hosted the first Alaska National Guard Joint Forces Commander's Conference in May. Among attendees: Lieutenant General James Campbell, Commander - US Army Pacific; Lieutenant General Victor Renuart, Vice Commander - Pacific Air Forces; Lieutenant General Roger Schultz, Director - Army National Guard; Lieutenant General Daniel James III, Director - Air National Guard; and many other distinguished leaders who came to take part and present at the conference. Photo: Specialists Kelsea Vandergriff and Laura Griffin, 117th MPAD

Alaska Army National Guard

– A Journey Through War and Transformation

Winning the Away Games. With the increase in operations tempo, many Guard members are preparing for deployment themselves or are helping other soldiers prepare. Not since World War II has the Alaska Army National Guard been required to mobilize and deploy soldiers in support of so many federal missions. Since September 2003, the Guard has repeatedly provided soldiers and equipment in support of the War on Terrorism and peacekeeping missions.

The Alaska Army National Guard includes the Army Element of the Joint Forces Headquarters, an Infantry Group (Scout) with three Infantry Battalions (Scout), an Aviation Battalion, and Support Battalion. Other units include a Missile Defense Battalion, a Civil Support Team, the Regional Training Institute, a Medical Detachment, and a Public Affairs Detachment. The Guard is home to more than 1,800 soldiers. They're stationed in more than 70 communities across Alaska.



An Army at War. Soldiers were either fighting a war with record setting fires at home, getting ready to fight, or engaged with our enemies and 'Winning the Away Game' in distant lands. Photo: Courtesy DMVA Divisions



Mobilizations & Deployments

Kosovo Peace-Keeping Mission: On 3 September, 67 Alaska Army National Guard soldiers and eight UH-60 L Blackhawk helicopters returned home after a year-long deployment to Kosovo. During their tour, these Alaskans distinguished themselves through an extraordinary set of circumstances, when in March they were at the tip of the spear as they quelled organized violent riots, thus preventing a new civil war in Kosovo. As result, normal control went back to peacekeeping and internal security forces.

Operation Noble Eagle: The Guard deployed 32 soldiers to increase security at Kulis ANG Base, adjacent to Stevens International Airport, for up to two years. The remaining 26 soldiers were released from duty after completing nearly two years of active duty defending the homeland.

Operation Iraqi Freedom: In October, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry (Scout) mobilized more than 130 Guard soldiers in preparation to join the war fight in Iraq. They will serve alongside Hawaiian soldiers with the 29th Infantry Brigade when they deploy into Iraq in the spring 2005. Coincident to this tasker, an additional 30 soldiers from Company E, 1-207th Aviation Regiment are mobilizing for deployment to Kuwait with missions in Iraq.

Operation Enduring Freedom: At present, seven Guard soldiers have mobilized and deployed to Afghanistan. They will be there for up to two years.

Ground Based Mid-Course Missile Defense: Eighty-three Guard soldiers from the Infantry Battalions (Scout) and 297th

Support Battalion mobilized and deployed to Fort Greely to provide security and defense of the missile complex.

Other Mobilizations & Deployments: A handful of other soldiers have been mobilized and deployed in support of the War on Terrorism or peacekeeping missions. Among them, two Chaplains to Iraq, an officer and NCO with a Mongolian unit in Iraq, two soldiers with peacekeepers in the Sinai, a logistics officer to Germany, and an officer to Korea.

Training & Readiness – A Year of Achievement

2004 was notable for both individual soldier and unit training and readiness.

During the summer, the 207th Regional Training Institute (RTI) received 100 percent accreditation for all courses taught and was acknowledged as the entire Army National Guard's only "Institute of Excellence" so recognized during the Fiscal Year. The RTI trained 424 students – a student body assembled from throughout the nation among soldiers of the Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

Alaska set an all-time record exceeding National Guard Bureau standards. Ranked 7th best among the 54 states and territories, Alaska achieved 82 percent Military Occupational Specialty trained soldiers in units.

Sharp minds, sharp uniforms, sharp performance. A new

Central Issue Facility for management and issuance of individual clothing and equipment to soldiers was established. The facility streamlines equipment issue and ensures soldiers receive their clothing and equipment in a timely, efficient manner.

Transformation – Relevance & Missioning

2004 was a pivotal year of success in the life of the Alaska Army National Guard.

Alaska secured a position in the Transformation of the Army National Guard that will lead to increased resourcing and relevance. Alaska's soldiers will transform into a new Infantry Brigade Combat Team with force structure partnerships that will include Hawaii, Guam and other states. When completed the 207th Infantry Group (Scout) will transform to the 207th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Scout) mirroring U.S. Army force structure for the first time since in its history.

Likewise, the 1-207th Aviation Battalion will begin transforming in FY 06. The Battalion will convert from combat support to an Air Assault Battalion where the number of UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters will increase from 24 to 30 aircraft. One company of the unit will be stationed in Hawaii as a part of the overall plan. ■



Scout Waiver – opportunities, possibilities, traditions fulfilled. With the assistance of the Governor Frank H. Murkowski, the Alaska Army National Guard successfully obtained approval from the Department of the Army to enlist within provisions that take into account Alaska's very unique cultural and geo-climatic conditions. The "Scout Waiver," as it is known, significantly improves the Alaska Army National Guard's ability to recruit young Native Alaskans in both rural and urban settings.

Alaska State Defense Force

A Year of Service and Superlatives

Story by Warrant Officer 1 Amanda Isakson, ASDF



Defending the Homeland. Alaska State Defense Force and Alaska National Guard members man a checkpoint in Valdez during Operation Winter Talon. Federal, State and local law enforcement and military agencies responded quickly to possible threats to defend National assets during the holiday season of 2003-2004. Photo: Private First Class John Chriswell, 117th MPAD

The Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF) is a significant force provider to both State and Federal homeland security authorities. More than 300 Alaskans, located statewide, serve as military policemen.

The ASDF is organized through several components, including: the 49th Military Police Brigade, with four battalions and a Military Police Academy; the 491st Aviation Regiment; and the 492nd Coastal Command. The Brigade is headquartered at Camp Denali on Fort Richardson. Subordinate headquarters are located in Fairbanks, Juneau and Anchorage.

Mobilizations & Operations

Operation Winter Talon: In January, the Brigade deployed nearly 100 Military Police in defense of critical infrastructures located at Valdez and near Yukon River Bridge.

Port of Anchorage: In May, the 492nd Coastal Command provided Military Police Security for the off-loading of the U.S. Army's Striker Brigade materials and equipment.

Port of Anchorage: In July and August, the 492nd Coastal Command furnished soldiers for explosive detection to commercial trucking traffic to and from the Port area.

Ports of Seward & Whittier: The 492nd Coastal Command commissioned a 27-foot Police Patrol Boat for the seaside security while visiting tour ships were located at the Port of Seward. Operations remain in a training capacity until Marine Security Levels justify full time patrols.

Alaska Railroad: The 3rd Battalion (Fairbanks) and 4th Battalion (Anchorage) continue patrols in direct support of organic railroad security efforts. Landside Railroad Port Security is conducted in conjunction with the 491st seaside Port Security.

Emergency Satellite Communications: The 2nd Emergency Satellite Communications Battalion converted from the 2nd Military Police Battalion and is based at Camp Denali.

49th Military Police Academy: The Academy graduated 30 new Constables. They are trained as military police with special emphasis in working with civil law enforcement officer techniques and security for critical infrastructure and inspection and protection techniques for explosives.

491st Aviation Regiment: The 491st Aviation Regiment remains in direct support of the Brigade operations and training. They provide aerial reconnaissance, liaison and transportation for the Brigade, while conducting ongoing Homeland Security Operations. ■

Where in the World

• Mongolia

• Japan

• Korea

Clear AFS • Fairbanks
Nome • Fort Greely
Bethel • Anchorage
Kenai • Kodiak • Juneau



Welcome Home. Ten Alaska Air National Guard members returned home after serving more than seven months in Iraq as truck drivers with the Army. Master Sergeant Jon Gibson, Technical Sergeant Kevin Johnson, Staff Sergeants Byron Lee and Bill Walden and Senior Airman Jay Mendoza, of the 176th Logistics Resource Squadron at Kulis ANG Base, were among the first home. Five members of the 168th Air Refueling Wing also took part in the action. Photo: Senior Master Sergeant Paul D. Charron, 176th Wing



Red Star Wall. General Paul V. Hester, Commanding General for Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) inspects the plaques commemorating intercepts of Russian aircraft into Alaskan airspace. Hester was touring the Control Center of Alaska's North American Aerospace Command site at Elmendorf Air Force Base. The Alaska Air National Guard's 176th ACS recently took over operational activities from the Air Force. Photo: Staff Sergeant Ken Denny, 117th MPAD



State Partnership with Mongolia Moves Forward. Major Mark Bour, center, joined by Command Sergeant Major Dave Hudson, left, and Mongolian Lieutenant Colonel Ganboldt at the Ministry of Defense. Photo: Alaska National Guard



Medic. Using a volunteer from the fire department, Specialist Logan Haller, a medic attached to the 2/136th Infantry (Kosovo), demonstrates techniques for clearing obstructed airways. Photo: Sergeant Jon Soucy, 29th MPAD



So Happy to See Dad. Sergeant Raymond Vasofski gets welcome hugs from his boys as he returns from Kuwait. Vasofski, a C-23B+ Sherpa flight engineer with the Alaska Army National Guard's 1/207th Aviation Regiment, was part of an Alaskan Sherpa aircrew that included CW2 Wayne Horton and CW4 JD Baxter serving in Kuwait and the surrounding areas of operation. Photo: Specialist Laura Griffin, 117th MPAD



Entertainment for the Troops. Hobo Jim entertains Alaskan forces in Afghanistan during a USO tour. Photo: Major Rachel Saxby, USAR



Good Morning, Iraq! Robin Williams visits troops. Photo: Alaska National Guard

An International Effort Against Terrorism. Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard, active duty soldiers from the Army's 172nd Infantry from Fort Wainwright and Indian army soldiers participate in PT together at the Indian Counter Insurgency Jungle Warfare School in India. Photo: Alaska Army National Guard



Activated. Alaska Army National Guard Sergeant Major David Mosule, left, unfurls the Alaska National Guard's National Missile Defense Space Battalion's unit flag as Brigadier General Craig Campbell, Adjutant General and Commissioner of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, right, holds the staff during the unit's activation ceremony at Fort Greely. Photo: Mark Farmer



Chief Checks "Quality of Life" for Soldiers at Ft. Greely. Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum (Chief, National Guard Bureau) visits with Fort Greely's commissary director, Rick Stillie, during a recent visit to Ft. Greely, Alaska, to check out the quality of living for 49th Missile Defense Battalion soldiers. The 49th soldiers are members of the Alaska National Guard, who work with the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system as part of the nation's emerging missile defense program. Commissary benefits are important for Alaska Guardmembers. Through an Adjutant General initiative, the Elmendorf AFB Commissary entered into an agreement to get quarterly "Commissary Runs" via authorized military air to Bethel and Nome. Guard families get direct access to commissary goods without paying transportation charges. Photo: Sergeant Sara Storey, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD)

Alaska Air National Guard

Transforming the Force, Meeting Operational Requirements Were Front and Center

Story by Major Leisa Foster and Captain Paulette Goodwin



175,000 Accident-Free Flying Hours. Members of the Alaska Air National Guard celebrate a milestone in the face of extraordinary deployments and mission requirements. Alaska Air Guard members have deployed to every theater of military operations for more than 30 of the nearly 40 years they've been working toward this latest safety achievement.

Photo: Senior Master Sergeant Paul Charron, Alaska Air National Guard

Defending the homeland remained a centerpiece . . . for the Alaska Air National Guard in 2004. There were 1,916 Alaskans assigned with a total of 2,237 authorized as the year ended. As a major division of the Department of the Military & Veterans Affairs, the Air Guard is organized with a headquarters, three major flying units, numerous support squadrons and several special programs.

Mobilizations, Deployments & Operations

Rescuing Alaskans. The Rescue Coordination Center prosecuted more than 250 missions with nearly 70 saves, about 40 assists, over 350 sorties and more than 700 hours flown. The 210th Rescue Squadron conducted more than 60 rescue missions with 36 saves and 10 people assisted to safety. This took more than 100 sorties and about 200 hours of flight time.

Operation Iraqi Freedom: About 80 members of the 176th Wing deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and elsewhere in support of OIF. These numbers were sharply down from previous years due to Major Command Operational Readiness Inspection.

Operation Enduring Freedom: Just fewer than 200 members of the 168th Air Refueling Wing deployed to Turkey, Korea, Mongolia and other locations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and several special assignments.

Safety Records Climb To New High. It was a year of

significant aviation achievement. The 176th Wing celebrated 176,000 accident-free flying hours in fixed wing aircraft and 25,000 safe-flying hours in the HH-60 Pavahawks. In reaching this milestone, the wing was involved in 185 various missions. Likewise, Guard tankers, from Eielson AFB, flew nearly 2,600 hours in 710 sorties. They off-loaded 19.6 million pounds of fuel to 1,278 receiving aircraft. The 176th Air Control Squadron controlled 583 live fighter missions and 140 live tanker missions.

Training & Readiness – Top Marks from Pacific Air Forces

Operational Readiness Inspections played a key role in the lives of each wing in 2004. Pacific Air Forces Inspection Teams took turns visiting Kulis ANG Base and Eielson AFB, respectively. Results were impressive: the 176th Wing earned an overall "Excellent" rating. The 168th Air Refueling Wing won an overall "Good" rating with many individual excellents noted within its subordinate units. The 176th Aerial Port also earned an "Excellent" on its Air Mobility Command Inspection earlier in the year at Travis AFB, California. And as "Excellents" go, the 176 Air Control Squadron, at Elmendorf AFB, earned one during an unannounced North American Aerospace Defense Command's Alert Forces Evaluation.

Facilities

Alaska Air National Guard Military Construction Projects Had a Lively Year

Three significant projects were completed at Kulis ANG Base: an anti-terrorism/force protection project at the main entrance; and several other projects including pavement of the east and west perimeter roads, construction of a sand storage facility and other related projects worth more than \$3 million combined.

The Air Guard's Eielson AFB identity equals its success in long-standing military construction projects. Design contracts were let for a new mobility warehouse addition, renovation

and expansion of the communications facility, and upgrades for the maintenance hangar. Other construction projects were also undertaken and expected to be completed by year's end. One of the benefits accruing to the Civil Engineers included timely execution of their projects with approximately \$397,000 in Federal Sustainment, Repair & Modernization (SRM) funds to include an additional \$85,000 captured due to timeliness.

Transformation – Ready to Serve with Right Mix of People & Missions

Each wing – the 168th Air Refueling Wing, at Eielson AFB, and the 176th Wing, at Kulis ANG Base, continued its transformation journey. The 168th Air Refueling Wing is home to the KC-135R Strato Tanker. The 176th Wing restructured to the combat wing organization, which includes the 144th Airlift Squadron with C-130 Hercules airlifters, 210th Rescue Squadron with HH-60G Pavehawk helicopters, 211th with the HC-130 Hercules rescue tankers, and 212th Rescue Squadron with combat rescue officers and pararescuemen. Alaska Air Guard missions continued to grow with the additions of operations at Clear Air Force Station and the Regional Air

Operations Center at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

The Clear Air Force Station mission transition – from the active Air Force to the Air National Guard – is still underway. There are currently five officers and 30 enlisted members assigned.

As that aspect of the DMVA Space & Missile Defense Programs moved forward, security forces at both Eielson AFB and Kulis ANG Base assisted with support for various aspects of the growing missile defense program at Fort Greely. More than 40 members of the Alaska Air National Guard security forces took part in resource protection of missiles, rocket boosters and related equipment from their point of arrival in Alaska to their final destination at Fort Greely. ■

Guard Youth Outreach: A Message of Hope

Drug Demand Reduction Program Delivers Positive Lifestyle Examples

Story by Master Sergeant Charles Sears,
Drug Demand Reduction Administrator

In the year just ending, Alaska National Guard Drug Demand Reduction team members visited more than 20 communities and met with 15,367 elementary-grade youngsters, 7,647 middle-school youth, and 9,037 high-school students. In addition, representatives spoke before 19,601 adults statewide.

The Alaska National Guard conducted 10 Kidlift events – a program where the Guard flies in a UH-60L Blackhawk helicopter to a school with that school's principal, and some of their counselors and teachers aboard. This

program was responsible for reaching an additional 3,312 students in the Anchorage and Kenai School Districts.

In early summer, the Alaska National Guard co-hosted a week-long camp in Nome for both local and area youth-at-risk. Former NBA All-Star Thurl Bailey spoke to more than 300 participants about sober, drug-free lifestyles.

The Guard's Drug Demand Program has become completely entwined with several of the growing Junior ROTC programs providing mentors for the East Anchorage, Chugiak and Service High School programs during each of their week-long summer camps.

As usual, the Alaska National Guard had a compelling leadership position with Alaska's annual Red Ribbon Campaign. DDR is also involved with outreach through Operation Santa Claus. ■



A Drug-Free Lifestyle and You Can Be a Senator, a General or...Anti-drug and alcohol speaker "Retro Bill" poses with Senator Ted Stevens, Major General Craig Campbell and Colonel Tom Katus. The Alaska National Guard Drug Demand Reduction program brings Retro Bill and others to meet with Alaska's school aged children. Photo: Specialist Kelsea Vandergriff, 117th MPAD

Homeland Security & Emergency Management



A Year of Superlatives...Through Partnerships, Leading the Way in Emergency Management

Story and photos by Jamie Littrell, DHS&EM

Winter Talon/White Christmas. Office of Homeland Security staff deployed to Valdez in December 2003 to assist with security measures after the state and federal threat levels were raised. DHS&EM successfully directed deployment of National Guard and Alaska State Defense Forces, along with other resources from the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Department of Administration, and Department of Public Safety, enhancing security at the Port of Valdez and at the Yukon River Bridge when these critical infrastructures were identified as "at risk" to a potential terrorist event by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Bering Strait Sea Storm. In October, a severe low pressure system brought severe wind and tidal surges to communities along the western coast, causing enough damage to warrant state and federal disaster declarations. DHS&EM staff, along with staff from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), spearheaded a disaster relief effort. Approximately 45 communities were affected. Storm damage estimates totaled nearly \$21 million.

A Big Win On Airport Appeal. DHS&EM staff won a tough appeal for damage repairs to the Northway and Gulkana airports worth over \$24.4 million to the state of Alaska from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Headquarters. This includes mitigation monies to improve the Northway Airport. The 2002 Denali Fault earthquake caused the damages. The success of this appeal helped set a national precedent for repair of disaster damage to airports and will pay significant dividends

to the state in future disasters.

Security and Vulnerability Assessments. The diligent work of the DHS&EM Security and Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) Team resulted in a re-designed and tailored software-based assessment tool for evaluating critical infrastructure components in Alaska. The SVA Team conducted 12 assessments of government facilities, energy companies, hospitals, and other types of critical infrastructure at more than 35 sites around the state.

The results point to ways that organizations can improve protection and security of their facilities.

Passage of Senate Bill 385. Governor Frank Murkowski signed Senate Bill 385 on July 27. This legislation amended the existing civil defense chapter of the Military & Veterans Affairs statutes (AS 23.26) to update it for homeland security purposes. It amended provisions of the existing disaster chapter relevant to homeland security dealing with

Commitment to Alaskans. The mission of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is to protect lives and property from terrorism and all other hazards and provide rapid recovery from all disaster events.

The Division's six strategic goals are set forth to deter terrorism and lead the way in emergency management. They include reducing the vulnerability to loss of life, injury, and property damages resulting from disasters; providing efficient and timely homeland security and disaster management to Alaskans; developing and implementing a statewide homeland security and emergency management training and exercise program; developing and prioritizing a State of Alaska Critical Infrastructure list; enhancing and expanding terrorist information and intelligence dissemination; and increasing community and local jurisdiction public outreach.

The Division is committed to developing and implementing an integrated system that provides effective emergency management by proactively adapting to the changing world to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from any type of disastrous event. This includes efforts to prevent terrorist attacks, reduce Alaska's vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize the loss of life or damage to critical infrastructure.

outbreaks of disease, critical infrastructure protection, and combined the Office of Homeland Security with the Office of Emergency Management to create the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. It also empowered the Governor to declare states of emergency when the threat of imminent attack is present.

State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Governor Frank Murkowski and FEMA Region X Headquarters approved Alaska's state All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan enabled the state to receive federal disaster assistance and funding following the Bering



Strait Sea Storm disaster and all subsequent disasters. Without this plan, the costs of this disaster would have been 100 percent state funded.

Homeland Security Conference – “Protecting the Last Frontier.” The first Governor’s Conference on Homeland Security was successfully coordinated by the DHS&EM staff and held in Juneau during March. Nearly 400 participants and vendors attended from across Alaska and the nation. While true to the conference theme, speakers covered a wide range of topics from the current state of terrorism to new technologies that are becoming available to fight the “War on Terror.”

Hurricane Help Thanks to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. This summer, DHS&EM staff deployed to Florida after four large hurricanes caused severe and catastrophic damage. Alaskans were able to help thanks to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), adopted by state statute 26.23.135 & 136. Over 24 states provided more than 250 disaster responders in the largest EMAC deployment since its inception in 1993.

Cross-Border Exercise. In December, DHS&EM staff traveled to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada, to participate in a tabletop terrorism exercise. This was the first cross-border exercise centered on Homeland Security issues. Fifteen state and federal agency representatives trained with representatives from Canadian law enforcement, emergency measures, military and governmental agencies. The results set a plan for improving communications and developing greater ties between Alaska and the Yukon Territory for cross-border cooperation.

Emergency Management Accreditation Program. The initial assessment of the State of Alaska’s emergency management program was conducted in October by Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) evaluators. EMAP is a voluntary accreditation process for state and local emergency management programs. The assessment involved participation of many state and federal agencies. ■



New Readiness Centers Coming...

off the drawing boards, ready to build. The Bethel Readiness Center design is completed and land has been secured from the City of Bethel on which to build a new \$24 million Alaska Army National Guard Readiness Center. Site preparation work will begin in Summer 2005 with construction in Spring 2006. The old Guard Armory will be turned over to the City of Bethel once construction is complete.

The Guard secured approval from the City of Nome in January 2004 to lease 10 acres of land for the purpose of constructing a new Readiness Center. Lease arrangements were being finalized as the year ended. The initiative involves taking the Bethel plans and site adapting them to Nome. This will result in significant savings in design dollars and time. Nome construction may begin as early as fiscal year 2008.



New Juneau Readiness Center will be dedicated in April. Photo: Major Haller, JFHQ-AK-PA





Veterans



First Among Equals. Fifty-seven years after an estimated 6,500 members of the Alaska Territorial Guard completed their service to Alaska, Sam Herman, Sr., above, was the first to receive his official federal military discharge certificate at an outdoor gathering at the WWII Memorial in downtown Anchorage. He was just 12 years old when he joined the Alaska Territorial Guard. Here he salutes Major General Craig E. Campbell, while Senator Lisa Murkowski and Colonel (Retired) Bob Goodman look on. Officials believe that there are fewer than 300 former ATG members surviving. Five former ATG members, including Truman Cleveland, Sr., Stanton O. Katchatag, Tebby Koweluk, Roger Silook, Sr., and Chester A. Topkok received their certificates during the annual meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives. Photos: Specialist Kelsea Vandergriff, 117th MPAD.



Veterans – Among Alaska’s Greatest Treasures

Traditions of Honor, Service, Sacrifice Mirrored Through Lives of Veterans, Their Families

Remarks by Mr. Jerry Beale, Director of Alaska’s Veterans Affairs

Alaska’s Veterans Affairs Division serves more than 71,500 Alaska veterans and their families through numerous activities. In this past year, we accomplished many tasks, but five major achievements stand out.

- World War II Alaska Territorial Guard members have started to receive their long overdue, official Federal Certificates of Discharge from the U.S. Army. The ATG served from 1942 through 1947.

- Thanks to a lot of hard work by Governor Frank Murkowski, the dream of a Veteran’s Home for Alaskans will come true in 2006. Palmer has been selected for the first home.

- The Joint Venture Service Officers programs funding continued to move forward. With help from the American Legion, Disable American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign

Wars, Alaskan veterans were able to obtain their earned benefits in urban or rural areas of the state.

- The Alaska Veterans’ Memorial Endowment Fund is planning to be one of the solid performing programs for Alaska’s veterans. The fund provides for repairs and enhancements of veterans’ monuments across the state.

- Outreach efforts are critical to supporting Alaska’s veterans in need. Two Stand Down programs for veterans are held in Fairbanks and Anchorage, respectively, to assist veterans with a hand up, not a hand out.

Numerous opportunities are just ahead for our veterans and their families. We are a rich people thanks to the selfless sacrifices of our veterans and all that they’ve done for Alaska and our nation ... and all that they continue to do. ■

Space & Missile Defense



Tip of the Spear

In October, after years of preparation, the Alaska Army National Guard assumed the mission to control, operate, secure and defend America's first ground based, mid-course, ballistic missile defense system located at Fort Greely. This federal multi-million dollar investment is an operational test facility that provided for an initial fielding of six missiles and more than 150 fulltime Guardmembers to operate and provide security for the systems. Alaska's National Guard soldiers are at the "tip of the spear" in defending America.



Determination. Securing missile defense facilities and the missile field are paramount to the success of operations at Ft. Greely. A security team of Alaska Army National Guard soldiers ensures that a "human" defense barrier is an integral part of their efforts. Photos: Sergeant Sara Storey, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD)



Missile Defense: Up Close and Personal. Alaska Army National Guard soldiers, assigned to help defend the Missile Defense Complex at Ft. Greely, use a wide range of techniques, technologies, and vehicles to get their mission accomplished. From armed Hummers, to all-terrain vehicles and snow-machines, soldiers are able to complete their tasks. Mock protesters are routinely used to help train troops during Force Protection exercises.



A New Defense for the Homeland – Transforming to Defend North America. The first Ground-based Interceptor Missile was lowered into its silo at the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely last summer. Interceptors are designed to destroy incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles before they reach North American airspace. Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard, along with contract support teams, operate the missile defense system 24 / 7 on behalf of the United States. Photo: Ralph Scott, Site Activation Command

Alaska Military Youth Academy – The Best School

Youth-At-Risk Are Forever Changed. Just Ask Anyone.

Story by Major Mike Haller, JFHQ-AK-PA



22 Weeks Into Their Sojourn. Cadet's lives forever changed. Upper Photos: Staff Sergeant Ken Denny, 117th MPAD

For the youth-at-risk who attend this institution it represents a last, best chance at success. For their parents, family and friends it represents a last, best hope at the most critical point of their young person's life.

The success of the school is easily found in the faces of the staff and instructors. It is full of success, full of hope. And full of promise.

The Alaska National Guard Alaska Military Youth Academy celebrated its 10th year of growing success. With more than 1,500 graduates, the AMYA sets a standard that equals or exceeds the very schools that the cadets initially dropped out of. To that point, the AMYA earned high praise when they won First Place for the 2004 Academic Decathlon Division 1 Small Schools. Was it a surprise? Yes. Was it a fluke? No. These young people are drawn to high standards from the first day they arrive.

Citizenship is a key criterion for success in the Academy. Twenty-two weeks of full-up everyday training and education opportunities bring out the best in each cadet. The Academy typically logs 13,000 to 18,000 or more volunteer hours with each of the two annual courses.

Graduates demonstrate leadership and maturity. They are physically fit, emotionally stable and graduate from the program with a desire to be productive members of our society. Most complete their high school academic requirements and more than two thirds move on to college, technical schools, employment or public service.

The proof, as is oft said, is in the showing. Take a look at the articles of faith and benefits at the Academy's Web site. You can see the success, the hope and the promise for yourself at www.ngchak.org. ■

The people of the DMVA are a gregarious lot. They travel, train, protect, defend, deter and serve their fellow Alaskans in endless selfless gestures. From Northwest Alaska disaster response and recovery actions to the War on Terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Philippines and a dozen locations, their contributions in 2004 were invaluable. Here are some images reflecting their vision – Ready to Serve.

Photos: DMVA Divisions



Civil Support Means Neighbor Helping Neighbor

An Unusual Blend of Alaska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen Help Protect Their Communities

Story by Major Mike Haller, JFHQ-AK-PA



On the Cutting Edge. The Alaska National Guard's 103rd Civil Support Team is one of the very best Weapons of Mass Destruction units in the entire nation. Photo: Courtesy of 103rd CST

If the Alaska National Guard had a team of people in charge of nightmare protection, the 103rd Civil Support Team would be that group. As the leading team of people whose job it is to respond to weapons of mass destruction events, these Alaskans know their business.

"Lieutenant Colonel Brett Meyer and his team spend an enormous amount of their time training fire fighters, police departments and emergency managers on how to respond to WMD threats and incidents," said Major General Craig Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard. "This team is rated as one of the very top in the entire nation and the reason is because of the level of their commitment to their fellow Alaskans, to their families and to their profession."

The 103rd CST trains for all-hazards environments where time and saving lives is always a very critical concern. "The best thing we can say is that these men and women do everything they can to keep themselves on the cutting edge of technologies that will help Alaskans, and very importantly, they share that information with others so that the capabilities to respond to potential acts of terrorism are significantly enhanced," Campbell said.

The 103rd CST remains an important asset in the ongoing War on Terrorism and a significant deterrence factor here at home in Alaska. ■

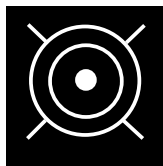


The People of DMVA

2004

Photos: DMVA Divisions





Awards & Recognitions

Bronze Star



Lt Col Carlisle Lincoln III 210th RQS
 Lt Col Charles Foster 210th RQS
 Col Jim Robinson JFHQ-AK (Air)
 Lt Col Steve Williams JFHQ-AK (Army)

Legion of Merit



Brig Gen Craig Christensen . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Brig Gen Timothy Scott JFHQ-AK (Air)
 Brig Gen (Ret) George Cannelos . . JFHQ-AK (Air)
 CW4 Verlon C. Pearce JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Lt Col Jennifer B. Davis JFHQ-AK (Army)
 CW4 Dave P. Deming 297th Support Bn

Alaska Legion of Merit Medal



Col Randall Christiansen 168th Wg
 CMSgt William C. Jacobson 176th Wg
 CMSgt Raymond Reekie JFHQ-AK (Air)
 CMSgt Chris Moore 176th Wg
 CMSgt Lisa Scroggs JFHQ-AK (Air)
 MSgt Charlie Brenton 176th Wg
 CSM Edward J. Mason JFHQ-AK (Army)
 CW4 Dave P. Deming 297th Support Bn



Deputy Commissioner Honored. Roger Schnell was awarded the NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal to recognize his impact on programs and people nationwide. His award states, "He has mentored, encouraged and served others selflessly throughout his career in the Army National Guard for over 40 years." Major General Gus Hargett, chairman of the NGAUS board, presented the honor to Schnell, who is the first Alaskan to ever receive this medal. "I'm very humbled by it," Schnell said. "It's quite an honor to receive it because not very many people do. I view the award as something with my name on it, but a lot of people from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs deserve the credit for all their hard work." Photo: Courtesy of National Guard Association

Expert Infantryman Badge



207th Long Range Surveillance Detachment (LRSD)

Staff Sergeant Mike Grunst
 Sergeant Eryk Crawford
 Specialist David Doxey
 Specialist Clinton Shahan



American Soldiers. A four-member team of the Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Long Range Surveillance Detachment received their Expert Infantryman's Badge during ceremonies at Ft. Wainwright.

Photo: Technical Sergeant Brian Shumbohm, 168th ARW



Rising to the Top. James K. Robinson stands proud as he is pinned by his father and wife to the rank of Brigadier General. During his career with the Alaska Air National Guard, Robinson has literally flown around the world; visiting more than 50 countries and deploying to Panama 19 times. He enlisted in the Alaska Air National Guard in August 1978. Photo: Specialist Kelsea Vandergriff, 117 MPAD

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- Do you own or operate a business?
- Would the men and women of the Guard/Reserve be potential customers for you?

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Today, men and women across the U.S. are stepping forward to protect freedom and their fellow Americans. Many are members of the Army National Guard. They are citizen-soldiers, so they can answer the Nation's call, whenever, wherever, and for as long as they are needed. And while all Americans are able to enjoy freedom, not everyone is able to be a member of this proud and elite team. Think you can? Call 1-800-GO-GUARD (1-800-464-8273) or visit www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com to learn more about the Army National Guard.

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